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Three Schools Selected for Phase Two of Joint Anti-Bullying Initiative

Lansing—The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) today announced that three schools have been chosen to take part in the second phase of a joint initiative to help schools implement effective anti-bullying efforts. The participating schools are the International Academy of Flint, the Multicultural Academy in Ann Arbor, and the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy.

Following the passage of the Matt's Safe School Law in late 2011, officials from MDE and MDCR developed the initiative to ensure school districts have the support they need to implement effective anti-bullying programs. The initiative is aimed at reducing destructive peer interactions and improving youth behavior and attitudes in schools and communities.

“At the International Academy of Flint, we put in place an anti-bullying policy prior to passage of Matt’s Safe School law,” said Academy Director Kendra Giles. “Being selected to take part in this initiative will allow us to obtain critical feedback on that policy, evaluate its effectiveness, and make sure it meets the needs of our students.”

The selected districts will receive a variety of supports, including help with interpreting and using data, conducting needs assessments, and selecting interventions. Participants also will learn how to engage local partners such as community mental health, local public health, social service, government, law enforcement, and the private sector in a comprehensive plan to reduce bullying behaviors.

To learn more about the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>. To learn more about the Michigan Department of Education’s Michigan Safe Schools Initiative, visit www.michigan.gov/safeschools/.

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